

SECRET

14th April, 1948

APPENDIX "A" to  
MGC/P(48)16

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF WORKING PARTIES SET UP IN  
BERLIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISIONS OF LONDON  
CONFERENCE

1. To study arrangements for a close association between the Military Governors and the representatives of the Benelux Countries in Germany.
2. Measures to improve economic co-operation between the Bizonal Area and the French Zone, particularly in regard to:
  - (a) Circulation of persons and trade.
  - (b) Foreign trade.
3. The study of the arrangements which have been made for the administration of the Bizonal Area with a view to exploring the possibilities of a fusion of the French Zone with the Bizonal Area.
4. To examine the practical implications of the possible fusion, mentioned in paragraph 3 above, as affecting the Allied partners to the fusion arrangement.
5. To continue the discussions undertaken at London on the future political organization of Western Germany, as set out in document TRI/4.
6. To study the question of safeguarding the rights of foreign owners of the coal and steel industries in the Ruhr and elsewhere in Germany.

**OSD REVIEW COMPLETED. NO OBJECTION  
TO DECLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE**

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MGC/P(48)16PROPOSAL FOR CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE MILITARY  
GOVERNORS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BENELUX  
COUNTRIES IN GERMANY

In order to give effect to the recommendations of the London discussions of February-March 1948 respecting a close association between the Military Governors of the U.K., U.S. and French Zones and the representatives of the BENELUX countries in Germany, the following report of Working Party No.1 is submitted:

1. With respect to discussions now being held in Berlin, it was agreed that the reports and/or recommendations of the three Military Governors would be made available to the BENELUX representatives at the conclusion of the meetings on those subjects which are of direct interest to them. This will enable the BENELUX Governments to be adequately informed of the results of the Berlin discussions before the talks are resumed in London in April of this year. Furthermore, it is noted that the BENELUX representatives have expressed their views upon the subjects considered by this working party and those relating to the future political organisation of Western Germany (Working Party No.5) and to the question of safeguarding the rights of foreign owners of the coal and steel interests in the Ruhr (Working Party No.6).
2. With respect to continuing this cooperation in the future, it was agreed that for the Bizonal area items pending before the Bipartite Board (of interest to the BENELUX countries) would so far as possible be communicated to their representatives before the meeting of the Board. The BENELUX countries would then be able to submit their comments on such items and these could normally be considered by the Board in the course of its meeting. Furthermore, the representatives of the BENELUX countries

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would be immediately informed of decisions taken by the Bipartite Board and would be given the minutes for those items which are ~~not~~ exclusively of interest to the Board.

3. An arrangement similar to that outlined in Paragraph 2 above will be put into effect with respect to the French Zone under which information respecting both impending developments and decisions will be communicated to the representatives of the BENELUX countries.

4. With respect to information provided in Frankfurt and Baden-Baden, it is recognised that this should be done through the consular representation of the BENELUX countries established in those cities.

5. For the purpose of assuring a regular contact and for providing background information, both on developments in the Bipartite Board and in the French Zone, meetings will be held at stated intervals between the respective Political Advisers of the three Military Governments on the one hand and the representatives of BENELUX countries on the other. Each Political Adviser would also, upon request, arrange for interviews between representatives of the BENELUX countries and other officials of the respective Military Governments, both in Berlin, Frankfurt and Baden-Baden.

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